

PART I.

A Historical Summary.

From the Discovery of Montreal to the Conquest.

MONTREAL'S title to the commercial metropolis of British North America comes to her by inheritance. Her right to that title is older—much older—than Queen Victoria's title to the succession of the British Crown. History tells us that Jacques Cartier, who discovered Montreal, found in 1535, when he landed at Quebec, that Montreal, then called Hochelaga, was at that early age the metropolis of the savage state, the capital city of the Indian tribes. His own narrative of the discovery has the charm of romance that surrounds all North American stories. He found Quebec on the 15th of August, 1535, and met Donacona, the Lord or King of Quebec, then called Stadacona. He could not be dissuaded from a visit to Montreal, and from the 19th of September to the 28th he was engaged in sailing as far as Lake St. Peter where he was compelled by shoal water to leave his ships and take to the boats. He reached his destination on the second of October, having landed at the foot of the island. Having arrayed himself in the most gorgeous finery, he left his boats, and, accompanied by twenty mariners and four gentlemen, set out for Hochelaga. He was guided by three Indians, and says, in his description of the journey, that "all along he found the way as well beaten and frequented as can be, the fairest and best country that could possibly be seen, full of goodly great oaks, as any in the woods in France, under which the ground was all covered with acorns." After he had gone about four miles, he was met by one of the principal chiefs, who paid him some honor, made a speech to him, and insisted upon